

**SAFE SEX BEHAVIOR TOWARDS HIV/AIDS AMONG
MYANMAR REPRODUCTIVE AGED MIGRANTS IN MUANG
DISTRICT, SAMUTSAKHON PROVINCE, THAILAND**



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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study was done to assess the safe sex behaviors among Myanmar reproductive aged migrants in Muang district, Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand. The study assessed the socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge about HIV/AIDS, perception on HIV/AIDS, cue to action of Myanmar migrants and the relationship between these factors and their safe sex behaviors. The safe sex behaviors in this study are no sex with unknown partner, faithfulness to spouse or sexual partner, intention to use condom, and consistent condom use. A total of 260 respondents were interviewed with structured questionnaires during the month of January 2008.

The study results showed that over two-thirds (70%) of the respondents conduct fair or moderate safe sex behavior while 17.31% have good behavior and 12.69% use poor safe sex behavior. The prevalence of consistent condom use is 58.08%.

The analyzed results also showed that the variables age, gender, educational level, marital status, knowledge level, perception susceptibility on HIV, media of printed materials, influencing person and experience of seeing AIDS patients are associated with their safe sex behavior. The most influencing people for preventive safe sex behavior are health personnel.

An intensive health education program providing true knowledge and logical thinking about HIV/AIDS for Myanmar migrants should be encouraged. NGOs currently working in that area should be appreciated for their care and prevention programs on HIV/AIDS. Faithfulness to one's spouse as a cultural norm should be maintained in order to promote safe sex behavior. Further in depth qualitative study about safe sex behavior among these Myanmar migrants should be done.

KEY WORDS : SAFE SEX BEHAVIOR/ HIV/AIDS/ REPRODUCTIVE AGED/ MYANMAR MIGRANTS/ THAILAND

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